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AN ACCOUNT OF WHAT HAS PASSED BETWEEN THE INDIA DIRECTORS AND ALEXANDER DALRYMPLE:

INTENDED AS AN INTRODUCTION TO A PLAN FOR EXTENDING THE COMMERCE OF This KINGDOM, and of the COMPANY, IN THE EAST-INDIES, BY An ESTABLISHMENT at BALAMBANGAN.

Nequid falsum audeo dicere, nequid verum non audeo.
CICERO.

Nothing falſe I dare report;
Nothing true I fear to ſay.

A. D.

LONDON:
Printed for the Author; and Sold by J. NOURSE, the Strand, and T. PAYNE, at the Meuſe-Gate.
M DCC LXIX.

[Price One Shilling.]

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ERRATA.

Page 4. l. 10. *dele* ſo
11. l. 3. *for* On the 8th of May I drew up ſome hints, which I communicated, on this ſubject—*read*, On the 8th of May, I drew up ſome hints on the ſubject, which I communicated on the 10th; but, &c.
13. l. 10. *for* to the Bengal inveſtment, *r.* commercial intereſt of Bengal ſuch, &c.
21. l. 15. *for* I think that they *r.* I think they
27. l. 10. *for* that *r.* as
29. l. 5. *for* ſervices *r.* ſervice
80. l. 19. *for* regretted *r.* regreted
103. l. 3. *dele* London, Oct. 20. 1768.
104. l. 11. *for* from which *r.* from whom

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TO

THE SERIOUS ATTENTION

OF

A GENERAL COURT

OF

INDIA PROPRIETORS,

This NARRATIVE is recommended,

BY

An Old and Faithful Servant

OF

The EAST INDIA COMPANY,

Alexander Dalrymple.

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N. B. At the laſt General Court, held the 21ſt Inſtant, I delivered the following Hand-bill:

To the PROPRIETORS *of* India Stock.

"GENTLEMEN,

"Having ſome time ſince laid before the Court of "Directors a Plan for the Extenſion of their Trade, "and finding they have not paid that Attention to it "which I think the Subject requires, I cannot, in "Juſtice to the Publick and to myſelf, as I have ſpent "much Time in purſuit of this Object, which appears "to me of the utmoſt Importance, avoid deſiring that "I may lay the ſame before You, or ſuch a choſen "Number of Proprietors as you may think proper. I "ſhall attend this General Court, to anſwer any "Queſtions that may be required of me.

"I am,

"GENTLEMEN,

"Your moſt obedient humble Servant,

Wedneſday,
21 Dec. 1768.

"Alexander Dalrymple."

The Court did not take any Notice of this Application: ſeveral Perſons had indeed given it as their Opinion, that the Matter never would be taken up whilſt made only as a *General Application*, and that the only Mode of introducing it, was by engaging ſome Proprietor to move it in Court.

I have ever diſclaim'd, and do diſclaim all Connexion with Party; and can have no *right* to aſk any *Individual* to ſtand forth the *Champion of my Cauſe*: To be *heard* in *Perſon* ſeems to be a *natural Right* to which every Man is entitled: and a Motion for *this* might, with as much Propriety, be made by a *Friend* of the *preſent* Directors, as by one in *Oppoſition* to them. However, as *this* Motion was not made, the only Step left for me to take is to publiſh this Narrative for the Information of the Court to be held on the 4th of January.

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AN

ACCOUNT

OF

What has passed between the INDIA DIRECTORS and ALEX^R. DALRYMPLE.

TWO objections have been urged against a *publication* of this kind: 1st, That other nations may take advantage of so publick an exposition of intentions. 2d, That it is an imputation on the capacity and abilities of those who have the administration of the Company's affairs.

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Myſtery is too often a veil for indolence, ignorance, or folly; the rights of the Company ſtand on too good foundation, to be moved by any thing, but ill-judged delays, or timid conduct. "*The Dutch will* "*take the alarm*," can only be ſaid by thoſe who talk inconſiderately, or who wiſh to ſcreen their own miſconduct under a popular pretence.

If it be ſhewn that it is *impoſſible* to keep the Dutch in ignorance; it will ſcarce be requiſite to enter into the diſcuſſion how far that meaſure may be *neceſſary* or *expedient*.

In April laſt*, the Deputy Chairman, in the firſt converſation I ever

* At this time he ſhewed me an abſtract he had made of my *Plan*, which had been communicated to him ſome months before, though without my knowledge or conſent.

had

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had with him on the ſubject; aſked me whether I wiſhed to have the Court of Directors come to a reſolution immediately, or to poſtpone it till September; obſerving, that the very poſt after they came to a reſolution, it would be known in Holland.——I recommended an immediate deciſion, as a thouſand things would be neceſſary which could not be thought of, till the Company came to a reſolution; at the ſame time that I ſaw no advantage in endeavouring to make a myſtery of the Company's intentions.

The reſolution was indeed put off from time to time; but in July the Court of Directors determined to form the eſtabliſhment; and therefore, if we pay any regard to the ſentiments of the Deputy Chairman, the Dutch

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muſt already be acquainted with the Company's views.

Perhaps the Machiavels of the preſent direction may think that although the Dutch were *alarmed* by the reſolution of Court in July, their fears are now quieted by the *irreſolution and inconſiſtencies* of the Directors from *that time* to *this*. However, as the matter has been ſo long *publickly* known in India, every attempt to make a myſtery of the Company's views muſt appear equally ridiculous and fruitleſs. The *only* way of removing the apprehenſions of the Dutch is by dropping the enterprize entirely, or undertaking it in ſuch a manner as cannot be attended with ſucceſs. — Either of theſe modes will merit, not from a General Court, or from this Kingdom, but from the Dutch, a very ample reward to the Directors.

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It is alledged the Company's intention of removing their capital eſtabliſhment on Sumatra, from Bencoolen to Kyſer's-bay in the ſtrait of Sunda, was fruſtrated by the *ſecret* being divulged. A ſettlement in Kyſer's-bay was only *intended*. The Company do not appear to have had any claims or grants; if they *had*, how came their rights to be tamely given up to the Dutch? This *remove* was long *talked* of; it was therefore very natural for the Dutch to endeavour to *do* ſomething to prevent it, ſince the Engliſh talked without doing anything. To delay and inactivity therefore muſt be aſcribed the failure of that intention: The circumſtance of Balambangan is very different; I obtained a grant of it for the Company, and took poſſeſſion *ſome* years ago: their right therefore is not to be ſu-

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perſeded by any publick meaſures the Dutch can take: any attempt to gain a footing there, would be as great an infringement of right, as if we were to ſettle upon a part of Zeylan belonging to the Dutch.

An extenſion of the Company's trade does not require ſecrecy: by the *leaſt* attempt, the apprehenſions of the Dutch will be as *much*, and their hopes of fruſtrating it *more* raiſed, than by an open expoſition of the Company's views: theſe apprehenſions are not to be removed by any myſterious meaſures, nor will the Dutch quietly truſt that the undertaking *may* fall to the ground, if they can flatter themſelves with a proſpect of overthrowing it: ſuch expectations can *only* be prevented by *ſpirit* and *expedition*, not by oſtrich-like concealments.

It

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It is undoubtedly proper to examine into the claims and pretenſions of other nations, previous to any new eſtabliſhment, that we may be aſſured of our own *right*, before the publick honour is pledged, or any expence incurred.

Every claim of the Spaniards is refuted by the treaty of Munſter: being cautious of referring to the Company's records without permiſſion, I do not enter into the particular diſcuſſion of the governor of Manila's proteſt *.

As

* I applied to the Court of Directors for this proteſt in the following letter.

" Gentlemen,

" As a refutation of the Spaniſh pretenſions in " the Governor of Manila's proteſt depends on " many hiſtorical and local circumſtances, which " perhaps no man in England but myſelf can " know, I preſume it might be uſeful to the " publick to have a refutation from me, as the

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As there are no European treaties of limitation to reſtrain the Engliſh navigation or commerce in India, the only pretence of objection from the Dutch muſt be againſt our ſettling at places where they claim the immediate dominion, or at ſuch as are ſubject to princes tributary to or

" Company *may profit*, but are not *engaged* by any " thing I can alledge.—I am therefore to requeſt " a copy of that proteſt, and promiſe very cau- " tiouſly to adhere to *facts* in refuting it.—I have " the honour to be,

" Gentlemen,

" Your moſt obedient,

" humble ſervant,

" A. DALRYMPLE."

" Soho-Square,
" Nov. 25.
" 1768.

A friend of mine offered to lay me a guinea to a crown, " that the Court of Directors would not " grant this requeſt, or give any anſwer." I did not think any ſet of men in publick ſtation would be actuated merely by pique; but I have loſt the wager.

in

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in alliance with them. This laſt claim might admit of much diſpute, but does not relate to the point in queſtion, as the dominion of Dutch auxiliaries never comprehended the north end of Borneo; this is a part where the Dutch never had any eſtabliſhment or connexion.

Any oppoſition therefore from the Dutch to an Engliſh eſtabliſhment at Balambangan cannot be grounded on a pretended infringement of rights, or breach of treaties, but muſt entirely ariſe from their *apprehenſions* that ſuch an eſtabliſhment would be prejudicial to their intereſt in India.

However jealous the Dutch may be of ſuch an eſtabliſhment, it is not to be ſuppoſed that they will commit any open act of violence; indeed our power in India is at preſent too formidable for them to make an open

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open attack, ſince they cannot now imagine themſelves able to bribe or bully the Court to ſupport them againſt the Company, as they did in the infamous tranſaction of Amboina, during the abject adminiſtration of the favourite Buckingham.

In the following narrative I ſhall endeavour to give a circumſtantial detail of what has paſſed this year between the India Directors and me, in relation to the eſtabliſhment at Balambangan.

The Company's intentions of making an eſtabliſhment were communicated to me early in the year*: I was deſired to put down on paper the general heads of ſuch an expedition,

*On the 19th of April I received a letter from the ſecretary, informing me the Committee of Correſpondence deſired to ſee me on the 26th. I accordingly went, and was aſked many queſtions.

and

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and was taught to believe that I was intended to be entruſted with this charge. On the 8th of May I drew up ſome hints, which I communicated, on this ſubject; but as delays were made, no reſolution was taken for above a month after. In the beginning of July I was called up from Scotland by an intimation, that it was reſolved to carry the expedition into immediate effect; and I was informed that the Court of Directors had determined to purchaſe a ſhip, as the reaſons I had given againſt employing a freight ſhip were thought ſufficient objection.

It appeared to me however, that the Directors had not ſufficiently conſidered the ſubject, but had precipitately determined to make a ſettlement, before they well knew what was intended by that ſettlement; and had not at all thought of the conditions which I might

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might deem adequate for undertaking a work of ſo much danger and inquietude: I thought it was candid, before they had advanced too far, to have theſe preliminaries ſettled. I was not inſenſible, that the way to have carried my *point* was to have let them run on, till they could not have retreated but with diſgrace; but I thought the labourer was worthy of his hire; and although it was a *point* I had much at heart, it was not a *job*; and I was in that temper of mind, that I would rather have returned to Madraſs, in the common line, than have gone to Balambangan in a mode not entirely agreeable to myſelf.

I conſider the duty of the publick and the individual to be reciprocal; and think that a reward is as much due from the former, as ſervices from the latter: I have ever had the intereſt of the

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the publick in view, but I have always expected, in the end, to receive a perſonal reward, adequate to the ſervices I ſhould perform.

After many procraſtinations, a Committee was appointed for determining the buſineſs: Mr Gregory was deſired to attend; he gave a very clear information of what infinite conſequence to the Bengal inveſtment ſuch an eſtabliſhment would be; and declared it as his opinion, that it would yield to the Company, in four or five years, an annual profit of at leaſt 100,000 l. This Committee was held on the 3d of Auguſt.

I had that morning given a paper to ſome of the members of the Committee for their peruſal; in it I recited what I underſtood were the Company's intentions, viz.

" To

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"To ſend a ſhip with a proper "force to remain at Balambangan for "three years, by way of experiment, "how far there may be a probability "of effecting the purpoſes of the ex- "pedition; and that I ſhould go out "on a contract for *three* years, to re- "turn at the expiration thereof, to ex- "plain what is neceſſary for the ef- "fectual proſecution of the undertak- "ing, ſhould they, from the firſt ex- "periment, be induced to carry the "plan into execution on a broad bot- "tom *."

It is neceſſary to recite particularly a great part of this paper, as although not a paper of record, it was of converſation, and has apparently influenced

* A thouſand circumſtances will occur, which cannot be explained but in perſon; at the ſame time errors and deficiencies in the infancy of an eſtabliſhment, entail diſtreſs and difficulties for ever.

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the proceedings of the Court of Directors. In this paper I obſerved, that

" I am far from conſidering the ex-
" tenſion of the Company's trade, to
" depend upon me; however, I will
" be bold to aſſert that *no* place is ſo
" convenient for the purpoſe of an em-
" porium as *Balambangan*; and, I
" think myſelf obliged to declare I
" would not undertake the charge of
" a new ſettlement upon any terms,
" but ſuch as appear to me ſatisfactory:
" indeed ſuch a charge muſt be at-
" tended at beſt with infinite fatigues,
" and conſiderable hazard; no man
" therefore who knows *the duty*, will
" ever wiſh to undertake it under ob-
" jections which threaten in the end to
" make the expedition prove abortive,
" or on any but *very ample* conditi-
" ons;" as he muſt have ſome confi-
dence of his own abilities and a full

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conſideration of the many difficulties to be ſtruggled with. At the ſame time, conditions which I ſhould deem *adequate* if I was embarking in a new enterprize, would not appear ſo at preſent, after nine years fatigue and inquietude, and after the ceſſions I have obtained.

" As the diſcuſſion of this matter " comprehends two points; the *equip-* " *ment*, which is merely *publick*; and " the *terms*, which relate to the indi- " vidual; I ſhall ſeparate theſe heads."

It appears abſolutely requiſite for the perſon who has charge of the expedition to have command of the ſhip as *Captain*.

" I have a commiſſion of five years " ſtanding as Captain of a ſhip in the " Company's ſervice: although I con- " ſider myſelf well enough qualified to " navigate

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" navigate a ſhip in this voyage *, I " am very far from pretending an e- " qual ability in every branch; in- " deed, the *common duties* of a *maſter* " are inconſiſtent with the more im- " portant charge entruſted to me; I " would therefore be better pleaſed to " have a maſter than a chief-mate ap- " pointed under me.

" Whether the Company allow me " any privilege of trade or not, muſt " depend entirely on them; it is a " matter not connected with the proſ- " perity of the expedition, and there- " fore, if granted, I ſhall receive it as " a favour, if refuſed, I ſhall not think " it an injury.

" It appears abſolutely neceſſary, " that the Chief have the choice of

* Indeed great part of it lying through ſeas, where I am perhaps the *only* European in the leaſt acquainted, I muſt, were I but a paſſenger, execute the office of pilot.

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" every perſon who goes on the ex-
" pedition: it muſt be obvious, who-
" ever goes on ſuch a voyage muſt
" look upon himſelf indebted for his
" appointment to the Chief under
" whom he ſerves; for if people think
" they hold their offices by the favour
" of perſons in authority at home, it
" overturns that ſyſtem of dependence
" and attachment, without which no
" new undertaking of this kind ever
" can ſucceed:" not to mention the chance of having ſome improper perſon recommended, which muſt be of very fatal conſequence in matters where *every* man has a duty indiſpenſibly to be performed. A new ſettlement is like the human frame; an obſtruction in the ſmalleſt veſſel diſorders the machine. Beſides, " as I do not mean
" to make a job of the expedition, ei-
" ther for myſelf or others; much ex-
" planation

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" planation is neceſſary to prevent
" people from forming falſe expecta-
" tions: I do not ſay this from a mo-
" tive of having the appointment my-
" ſelf, I have no perſon in view at
" preſent but Captain Fea, who com-
" manded the Company's cutter at
" St. Helena during the war; him I
" think a very proper perſon for chief-
" mate or maſter."

Captain Fea came home from St. Helena in the ſame ſhip with me; he had ſome claim to the Company's attention for paſt ſervices, and appeared very proper for the ſtation of chief-mate or maſter: him I therefore recommended as ſuch; and after I had done ſo, I received a letter from him, ſoliciting my influence in his behalf for that truſt. I knew of no perſons qualified for the other offices, and muſt

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therefore have made it my buſineſs to inquire after thoſe who were.

I alſo verbally mentioned Captain Ruſſel, as a military officer, if the Company thought proper to ſend any from Europe. He had been recommended to the Company laſt year by General Lawrence: I knew him in India to be a good officer; he underſtood Spaniſh, which was a very important qualification; had been at Sooloo, was well acquainted with the Sultan, and very deſirous, when at Manila, to have been employed on this ſervice, if the Company had at that time made the ſettlement: and when it was reported I was going out, he had intimated his inclination to be engaged in ſuch an expedition. The other military officers were propoſed to be carried from Madraſs.

" The

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" The *conditions* adequate to my " *paſt* and *future* ſervices are now to " be conſidered.

" The *terms* relative to the *preſent* " and *future* employment muſt be very " different, but I *would* not undertake " the *preſent* charge without a view to " the *future*; and although I do not " *ſtipulate* to have the government of " Balambangan hereafter, I *expect* it.

" If the Company *cannot* acquieſce " to the terms which I conceive ade- " quate to my paſt and future endea- " vours, I muſt acknowledge frankly " that I think that they had better not " employ me on this expedition. I " will venture to ſay, whoever goes at " the head of ſuch a ſettlement, muſt " purſue it through life, and fix on its " ſucceſs, not only his own honour, " fame and fortune, but thoſe of his " poſterity. Without this diſtant view,

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" no one will ever effectually ſucceed,
" whatever may be his perſonal abili-
" ties.

" Every new undertaking, depend-
" ing on a multitude of contingencies,
" is liable to ſo many accidents that the
" moſt favourable general proſpects are
" not in prudence, to a man paſt thirty,
" ſufficient ground to build upon. In
" common occurrences the example of
" many, is both a rule of conduct and
" ground of expectation; but the ad-
" vantages accruing to an individual,
" who has charge of a new ſettlement,
" muſt be of a very different kind;
" every *act* of his becomes a *funda-*
" *mental abuſe* or a *wiſe inſtitution:*
" the *immediate* intereſt of the indi-
" vidual muſt here be diametrically
" oppoſite to that of the publick. For
" example;—if the Chief is to acquire
" his reward by trade, his object muſt

 " be

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" be to buy *cheap* and ſell *dear*; but
" the object of the publick in the in-
" fancy of the eſtabliſhment is to draw
" ſtrangers from every quarter, by giv-
" ing high prices for their commodities,
" and ſelling at low rates the goods
" they want in return. I ſhould be
" *ſorry* to ſee a child of my own de-
" ſtroyed; but I think I *could not* raiſe
" my hand to *cut its throat*, as under-
" taking this expedition with a view
" to preſent gain *muſt* be.

" I know my own temper to be
" ſuch, that whatever I purſue muſt
" be with the *whole* mind; if I take
" up the *purſuit of money*, it is likely
" that deſire will abſorb every other
" idea.

" If I am fixed at Balambangan
" to *my own ſatisfaction*, I mean to de-
" vote my *whole* life to promote the

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" ſucceſs of that eſtabliſhment; and
" ſhall look upon it as my *home.*
" I have laid it down as a rule in
" life, both in matters of politicks and
" morality, to be directed by what
" appears to *myſelf* right. This rule
" will be my guide in future, as it has
" been in time paſt; and therefore
" ſhould the Company's opinion dif-
" fer eſſentially from mine in matters
" of conſequence, I may be under the
" neceſſity of relinquiſhing a charge
" which I cannot execute to mutual
" ſatisfaction: ſhould this be the caſe,
" I could no longer continue at Balam-
" bangan; and, although I hope this
" never will happen, the bare poſſibi-
" lity of it would overturn the plan
" of making it my *home.* At the ſame
" time, though I will never be the in-
" ſtrument to perform what I *think*
" is wrong, I don't preſume to *judge*
" for

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" for others, and ſhall therefore con-
" ſider myſelf always bound to promote
" the welfare of the eſtabliſhment, and
" and to aſſiſt the Company in every
" manner poſſible.

" The conſiderations in *future*, and
" for the preſent expedition, are very
" different; and as thoſe relative to the
" particular circumſtances above-men-
" tioned, have a reference *only* to the
" *future*, it is unneceſſary at pre-
" ſent to enter into a diſcuſſion of them:
" at the termination of three years, the
" Company will be better enabled to
" judge of the future conſequences,
" and therefore of the future conſide-
" rations.

" Although I would rather wiſh
" to know what conditions the Com-
" pany propoſe, than offer any my-
" ſelf, yet, as the mode moſt agree-
" able to me may not occur to them,

" I

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" I ſhall beg leave to mention my
" wiſhes and expectations, leaving the
" diſcuſſion to the Company."

" 1. That my expences in the ex-
" pedition, and my charges, out and
" home, be borne by the Company.

" 2. That the Company give me
" an annuity of l. per annum,
" transferable for another life.

" 3. That I be entitled to any
" privileges in common with other
" perſons.

" 4. That I be permitted to en-
" gage in the pearl fiſhery, notwith-
" ſtanding any general prohibition to
" Europeans.

" 5. That I have a commiſſion
" of l. * per cent. on the cargoes
" bought and ſold at Balambangan.

* This was filled up by a Director, with 5 per cent. and afterwards, by my propoſal, altered to 4 per cent. and 1 per cent to the ſecond.

" 6. I

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" 6. I ſhall expect, if I die in the " Company's ſervice, that they will " give a penſion of 100 l. per annum " to each of my children, if I ſhould " leave any without ſuch a proviſion.

" I will engage to receive no pre- " ſents in money, and to keep an " account of all others: and in caſe " there ſhould be any of ſuch value, " or under ſuch circumſtances, that " the Company do not approve, that " they ſhall be pledged with them till " all parties are ſatisfied.

" Should the conditions propoſed " by the Company be inadequate to " my expectations, I muſt ſolicit to " be returned to the Madraſs eſtab- " liſhment; and ſhall leave to the ge- " nerous conſideration of the Com- " pany, whether I deſerve any, and " what reward for my paſt labours."

July 29, 1768.

After

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After leaving the Committee, I received the following letter from one of the members. " After all the attention that has been given to our " ſcheme, and the warm zeal there is " in the Court to carry it into execution, it would concern me to have it " fail from motives of intereſt; the " more ſo as I cannot but condemn the " propoſal; and aſſure you that after " you left us, there appeared a general repugnance and diſguſt at the " idea of an expectation ſo wide from " their ideas, which always have been " that you are to hazard ſomething as " well as the Company, and to look " for your advantage in the proſperity " of the ſettlement; and if it fails, " Madraſs would be ſtill open to you, " and moſt probably with an indulgence in point of rank; but an independence for life runs counter to

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" this, and leaves the impreſſion of
" the poſſibility of that ſecurity, be-
" ing an inducement to relax from
" your endeavours for the publick ſer-
" vices; in ſhort, it hurts every way,
" and muſt not be thought of. At the
" ſame time I never ſaw people more
" diſpoſed to the generous and indul-
" gent ſide, than they are; and there-
" fore wiſh you would leave it entire-
" ly to the Court, and reſolve to em-
" bark in it. I wiſh it for your ſake
" as well as ours, being convinced it
" is as fair a road to *fortune* as any
" you can take."

The next time I ſaw him, I replied, that, " To a perſon who had, perhaps, " with too much neglect, hitherto " never made his *pecuniary* intereſt " an object of purſuit, the charge of " acting from *motives* of *intereſt a-* " *gainſt* the *publick welfare*, ſounded " like

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" like an accuſation: but although,
" if I had been born 2000 years ago,
" when a civic crown was the higheſt
" reward a good citizen could receive,
" I ſhould have conformed myſelf to
" the ſpirit of the times, and been ſa-
" tisfied with that kind of reward, I
" had lived long enough to ſee, that,
" in 1768, ſome care of a man's ſelf
" was required.

" That I had been fifteen years
" in the Company's ſervice, and was
" now on the wrong ſide of thirty:
" that I had laid it down as a rule,
" that although a man under thirty
" might ſport with his time, after that
" age he muſt become *prudent* of it:
" that if I had not been ſent to the
" eaſtward in the beginning of 1759,
" the common emolument of my of-
" fice, as Secretary, would by this
" time exceed 4000 l. inſtead of nine
" years

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" years *barren* labour: and that I
" thought a conſideration of theſe cir-
" cumſtances cannot be called *motives*
" of *intereſt*, but of *prudence* and
" *equity*.

" That I would very frankly de-
" clare, nothing could induce me to
" engage farther in that *line* but a *cer-*
" *tainty* of *independence*, or *ſtrong pro-*
" *bability* of competency, in a ſhort
" period.

" That as I would not make the
" ſettlement an object for *life*, but on
" my own terms, it was not impro-
" bable the Company might not agree
" to the conditions, and therefore, af-
" ter the firſt *term*, diſpenſe with my
" ſervices.

" That I had truſted to the Com-
" pany's generoſity for *nine* years *in*
" *vain*; and that, though I meant
" to truſt *much* to them in future, I
" had

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" had not faith enough to truſt every
" thing; and that although I thought,
" in reaſon and prudence, an *inde-*
" *pendence* neceſſary, I did not deſire
" my *fortune* to ariſe but from the proſ-
" perity of the ſettlement.

" That if they could think an in-
" dependence, by annuity of a few
" hundred pounds per annum, could
" *ſatisfy* me ſo much as to make me
" relax in my endeavours for the pub-
" lick ſervice, I muſt be, in their opi-
" nion, totally unworthy of ſuch a
" truſt; and that they could not, with
" propriety to the Company, employ
" one of whoſe unfitneſs for the charge
" they were ſo much convinced.

" That, in my opinion, there was
" no alternative; either a man's ob-
" ject muſt be to enjoy the comforts
" of private life, or to be ſignalized
" in the moſt diſtinguiſhed publick
" ſtation,

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" ſtation, by performing the greateſt
" publick ſervice; which *few* have
" had the opportunity of doing, in
" an equal degree, and as few will
" have in their power hereafter.

" That no other motive could at
" firſt have induced me to go to ſea,
" and that no other motive can now
" induce me to the undertaking; but
" that, as I might be diſappointed of
" my end, I was determined, if I un-
" dertook the very arduous taſk of
" forming a new ſettlement, I would,
" at leaſt, ſecure *what*, in my preſent
" ſtate of *dependence*, I thought *ſome*
" reward.

" That as for my running ſome riſk
" as well as the Company, I was en-
" tirely ſatisfied to do ſo: that at all
" events I ſhared the fate of the Com-
" pany; for who was to pay an an-
" nuity if they were bankrupts? But

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" that what he propoſed was a bub-
" ble-bet: the Company could not by
" the experiment loſe any thing which
" could materially affect them; but
" that I had already loſt the *beſt nine*
" years of my life, and *might* every
" thing: that the ſtake was not high
" enough for a deſperate caſt; and that
" I would rather take up with eaſe and
" ſmall advantages, at Madraſs, in in-
" dependence, as I may call an undiſ-
" tinguiſhed ſtation, ſuch as mine muſt
" be for ſome years, with twenty per-
" ſons above me, than harraſs my mind
" with fatigues and inquietudes, for
" which I might be doubtful of ever
" receiving a reward.

" That although I ſhould leave the
" mode to the Company, I muſt re-
" peat, that nothing except a certainty
" of independence, or proſpect of com-
" petence,

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" petence, could carry me to the eaſt-
" ward *."

Beſides the general objections to an annuity, I found the particular nature of what I wiſhed was diſapproved. When this was mentioned to me, I obſerved, that the only motive for aſking an annuity, was, that I might have it in my power to make a proviſion for my wife, if I ſhould be inclined to marry; that for my own part, an annuity was no object to me.

Marriage is a duty, which, I think, every man owes to ſociety ſome time in his life; and therefore a duty to *himſelf*, in an early period of it; the deſire of leaving poſterity, and providing for them, is a natural inclination in the mind of every ſocial being; I own

* As this was originally a letter intended, but not ſent to the perſon, though ſhewn to him, I have confined myſelf to the words of that paper.

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frankly that I wiſh to be on that footing of independency wherein a man can, with prudence, bring upon himſelf the cares of a family, and that there is no ſtate of life, without a proſpect of this, wherein any motives could induce me to engage; I will go farther, and acknowledge that there is a lady with whom I ſhould be happy to go hand in hand through life, though no conſideration could induce me, were it in my power, to involve her in any incertainties; nor, on the other hand, can either paſſions or affections draw me from my publick duty.

I was deſired to attend the Committee on the Wedneſday following; when after waiting ſome time, the Secretary came out and told me he was ordered to inform me from the Committee, " That they had come to no " reſolution, and put off the conſide-

" ration

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" ration of this buſineſs." No further explanation was ever deſired of me: this happened on the 11th of Auguſt.

The 24th I waited on the chairman, and told him I thought it but candid to communicate my intentions: that I was determined to leave no room either for myſelf or others to reproach me with having neglected any thing which might have promoted the carrying into execution a matter of ſo much importance to the publick.

He replied, " that it always was his opinion every body ſhould do what they thought moſt for their intereſt; but that if people would not accept of the terms——

I interrupted him by obſerving that it could not be ſaid that I had rejected terms, as none had ever been propoſed to me.

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He ſaid " the Committee would meet ſoon and do ſomething."

I replied, that delays were of the moſt fatal conſequence, and in this inſtance, the ſame as determining to do nothing; that, if any thing was to be done, the lateneſs of the ſeaſon required immediate diſpatch.

He obſerved, that " he thought nothing could be done this ſeaſon *."

I replied, that I did not think it yet too late, if diſpatch was uſed.

He ſaid " he could not always get gentlemen to meet, or, when they did, to do more buſineſs than they pleaſed; that for his own part,

* The advantages of an early diſpatch are *loſt* by paſt *delays*; it would be merely a matter of accuſation to recite thoſe advantages: however, it muſt be obſerved, that I know no *one* advantage which can attend *further* delays: but on the contrary, can foreſee many dangers and difficulties in every day's procraſtination.

he

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he was always preſent, and ready to do his duty" — adding, that "he did not know any body reproached me."

I replied, I ſhould reproach myſelf greatly, if, by neglect or indolence in me, a matter of ſuch importance to the publick welfare ſhould be delayed till it was impracticable; that therefore I thought it a duty I owed to the publick and to myſelf, to lay before them the plan for extending the Company's trade; that however I was not determined whether to do it before a Court of Proprietors, or to the Publick in general; and in this ſhould in good meaſure be guided by his ſentiments: I obſerved, that I had no connexion with any party, and was only induced to do this, as I found nothing was likely to be done, and as I

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thought a publick communication of the plan I had propoſed was therefore incumbent on me.

He ſaid, "I might be of no party; but people would judge from appearances: that I might do what I thought proper, as he had before told me; that as for a general court, he ſhould behave in it like a man, and worthy of himſelf; that he had no motive for being a Director but to diſcharge his duty to the publick; and that he did not care whether he was choſen again or not. That men could never want a reaſon for what they did; and that he had no doubt the Court of Directors, when called upon, would give a reaſon to the General Court for their conduct: that if the Proprietors did not put a confidence in them, there was nothing

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thing to be done but to diſmiſs them; and that he ſhould tell them ſo."

I replied that I wiſhed to do what I thought my duty in the manner moſt agreeable; that I did not pretend to know what motives induced men to be Directors, or Proprietors to chuſe them, and did not preſume to decide what were the duties of either, but ſhould confine myſelf entirely to what I thought my own.

He obſerved, "that for his own part he ſaw this matter in a very different light from others; that it was a very ſerious affair, and required much more conſideration than ſome people thought; that it appeared to him a matter of great expence and extent; and he did not know how far the Company ought to launch out before they had ſettled with Government."

He

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He concluded, " that he could only ſay that I would do what I thought for my own intereſt, and agreeable to the advice of my friends."

I replied, that hitherto I had always been determined by what I myſelf thought was right; that I ſhould continue the ſame conduct, and purſue what appeared to be my duty.

Two days after I gave in the following Memorial :

To

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To the Honourable the Court of Directors for affairs of the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the Eaſt-Indies.

The Memorial of ALEXANDER DALRYMPLE,

SHEWETH,

THAT

In 1752 I went out a writer in the Company's ſervice to Fort St. George.

In May, 1757, I was appointed Sub-ſecretary.

In the beginning of 1759, immediately after the ſiege of Madraſs, Mr. du Pré offered to relinquiſh to me the office of Secretary.

To fit me for this office, which I was to expect in the common courſe of ſucceſſion, I had carefully peruſed

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ruſed the Company's records. In them I found that the Company were in ancient times very ſolicitous to regain the trade to the Eaſtern Iſlands, of which this nation had been deprived by the intrigues of the Dutch and the puſillanimity of our own Court. On conſidering the ſubject attentively, I was convinced that this trade might not only be regained, but extended much beyond what it ever was. I have ſome papers on this matter ſo early in date as 1757, tho' the idea of proſecuting it in perſon, did not occur to me till the ſiege of Madraſs, during which I obtained Mr. Pigot's promiſe * to be thus employed, he being fully convinced

* "Mr. Pigot's *promiſe*:" A Director obſerved on this, "that *it* was my own *choice* to go to the eaſtward: that he was ſenſible I had been at a *good deal* of trouble, tho' it was a queſtion whether the

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vinced of the great importance of the object in view: in conſequence hereof, I determined to relinquiſh that eaſe and honourable independency [d] offered to me by Mr. Du Pré's reſignation, and to undertake the hazardous, but publick-ſpirited enterprize, which had a diſtant proſpect of great national benefit, and perſonal reputation.

It is now above nine years ſince I was ſent to ſea from Fort St. George, to endeavour an eſtabliſhment for the Company, of an extenſive com-

Company had reaped any advantages; but to be ſure I had a right to *aſk* to be reſtored to Madraſs, tho' he could not tell what would be the Gentlemen's determination." It would ſeem a publick-ſpirited choice is, in the opinion of this Director, either a folly or a fault; and that ſo far from being a recommendation, it is conſidered as an imputation againſt a man.

[d] The Secretaryſhip uſed to be reckoned 1200 pagodas, or 500 *l.* per annum.

mercial

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mercial empire in the Eaſt-Indies. Altho' I have met with many difficulties and obſtructions, which the ſanguine expectations of a young man did not bring into his account, I have never abated in my purſuit of this *great object*.

Self-applauſe is a very delicate topic; but I may be allowed to quote the ſentiments of the Company, and of their Government abroad, to ſhew that I have ſome claim to the Company's attention for what is paſſed.

Letter from Fort St. George to the Company, dated 17th April, 1762, per Ship Warren.

Par. 25. " Mr. Dalrymple is a man of capacity, integrity, and unwearied application; qualities which we hope and believe are ſufficient to

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entitle any man to your protection and favour."

Letter from the Company to Fort St. George, 9th March, 1763, per Ship Lord Clive.

Par. 49. "Your intention of "ſending an aſſiſtant with Mr. Dal- "rymple, was well judged, and we "doubt not but you have pitched "upon a capable perſon *; as we "apprehend, in dealing with thoſe "people, the utmoſt caution, pru- "dence, and diſcretion, is neceſſary. "As to Mr. Dalrymple, we are hi- "therto ſenſible of his merit and "capacity, and that he will deſerve "our favour and protection by his "future conduct."

* This aſſiſtant was Mr. Kelſall, *now* in *Council* at Bengal.

When

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When I went in the Company's Ship London to Sooloo, the Governor and Council of Fort St. George, in my inſtructions, dated 7th June, 1762, ſay,

" We do not ſtipulate any com-
" miſſion to you, for your care and
" trouble in this voyage, being per-
" ſuaded that your good and faithful
" ſervices will meet with a more ample
" reward from our maſters, than we
" think ourſelves authorized to pro-
" miſe you: we ſhall not fail to give
" them a juſt information of your pro-
" ceedings, and recommend to you
" a full confidence in their generous
" conſideration of your zeal, as the
" ſureſt way to obtain their favour."

On my return to Fort St. George, in the London, it appeared as well to myſelf as to my friends, that nothing material could be done in this affair,

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affair, without the particular directions of the Company; and as it ſeemed neceſſary for me in perſon to repreſent to the Company what occurred on this ſubject, I wrote a letter requeſting permiſſion to go to England for this purpoſe, but the Governor thinking this might be made an ill uſe of, by opening a door to other applications, deſired me to requeſt leave to reſign only in the common form, as the reaſon I had for going to England, muſt be ſo obvious, that no difficulty could be made of letting me return to Madraſs, if the Company ſhould not adopt the plan for the extenſion of their commerce to the eaſtward; accordingly I reſigned the

1763.

After this, the Governor and Council, having determined to ſend

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the Neptune to Sooloo, desired me to go thither in that ship, as my return to England from China would be little later than from Madrass. I accordingly embarked on the Neptune the 10th of July, 1763, and had their permission to come home from China; but on my arrival at Manila, I found the old Sultan of Sooloo well inclined to make such a partition of his dominions, as I thought would be greatly for the interest of the Company, by giving the government of the northern part of Borneo and Palawan to his son Saraphodin: I thereupon determined to forego my intention of proceeding to England, and to return to Sooloo, which I accordingly did in April 1764. Difficulties arising in the mode of *partition*, I obtained a *cession* to the Company of the northern part

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part of Borneo and the iſlands adjoining; though it was the intention of the Sultan that the government ſhould be veſted in Saraphodin.

Mr. Pigot returning to England in the end of 1763, and his ſucceſſor not ſending a ſhip to Sooloo the enſuing ſeaſon, as I had been poſitively aſſured would be done, I proceeded to China in the London, where I found a private letter, incloſing me the following extract of the Company's letter to Fort St. George, dated May 13, 1763, per ſhip Pitt.

Par. 18. "We now direct, if "you find a reſidence at Sooloo is "feaſible, that Mr. Dalrymple be "appointed our Reſident there, if "he *chuſes* it. . . . Although there "may not be an immediate proſpect "of any conſiderable profits by trade, "yet, by a reſidence there, oppor-

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" tunities may be had of exploring " thoſe parts, and ſtriking out ſome " advantages very beneficial to the " Company; and from what we " have obſerved of Mr. Dalrymple's " conduct in this affair, we make " no doubt of his acquitting himſelf " in the ſaid ſtation fully to our " ſatisfaction."[f]

The ſhip which brought theſe orders from the Company arrived at Madraſs in January: had this ſhip been diſpatched to me at Sooloo, I

[f] Theſe very ſenſible orders were given immediately after Mr. Sullivan gained the aſcendency in the direction. In juſtice to him it muſt be obſerved, that if this important acquiſition is loſt, either by paſt or future delays, no reproach can be laid on *him*, as the inſtructions above recited are compleatly what a *wiſe* adminiſtration muſt have ſent, from what was *then* known. I can ſcarcely ſay I have a perſonal acquaintance with Mr. Sullivan, having been in his company but *once*.

ſhould

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ſhould have given up all thoughts of returning to England; and am perſuaded would have collected the greater part of the Sooloo debt. As the adminiſtration at Madraſs did not ſend a ſhip to Sooloo, but diſpatched the Pitt to Manila, I thought the ſentiments of the Company, inſtead of preventing, were ſufficient to enforce my return to England, nowithſtanding I was deſired, by the Gentlemen at Madraſs, to continue, at the ſame time that they ſent me no plan of operation, and did not even communicate to me the Company's orders.

I left Canton the latter end of January 1765, and arrived in England the 10th of July.

It would, perhaps, appear indecent in me to enter into a recital of the many fatigues and dangers attending

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a five years courſe of navigation through ſeas unknown, and amongſt people with whom we had no intercourſe. The Company, from the foregoing citations, appear to have had a favourable ſenſe of my endeavours; and, as I think I may preſume to have ſome claim to their attention, I beg leave to refer to their generous conſideration to determine whether I deſerve any, and what reward for my paſt labours.

Should the Company determine not to purſue their intereſt in the eaſtern iſlands at preſent, or ſhould they not aſſent to ſuch conditions as I may think adequate to the very arduous taſk of forming a new ſettlement, I beg I may return to the Madraſs eſtabliſhment, with a recommendation to be reſtored to the office of Secretary, which I relinquiſhed above

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above nine years ago, to undertake the very hazardous and fatiguing enterprize which has been the object of my purſuit for ſo many years.

And your Memorialiſt, &c.

London,
Aug. 26, 1768. A. DALRYMPLE.

I have not received any reply to this memorial: *perhaps* the Court of Directors may be conſidering *what reward* to give me; *perhaps* the important buſineſs of elections may engage their attention too much to allow them to think of any thing elſe.

Some days after delivering in this memorial, I heard it ſaid in company, that the Directors alledged that the expedition was dropped becauſe it was impoſſible to comply with the terms I demanded; upon this I wrote a letter to the Court of Directors, which follows:

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To the Honourable the Court of Directors, &c.

GENTLEMEN,

IT was a matter of much aſtoniſhment to me to hear it aſſerted in converſation, that ſome of the Directors had ſaid, "the expedition "from hence to the eaſtward was "dropped, becauſe it was impoſſible "to comply with the terms I had "demanded:" it therefore behoves me to explain, that I never *demanded* any terms; nor indeed laid any before the Court: the paper I communicated to ſome of the Directors declared, that I mentioned what I *wiſhed*, as the mode moſt agreeable to me might not occur to them; but left the diſcuſſion to the Company.

Theſe conditions, if they muſt be called ſo, were of two kinds; relative

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tive to the publick equipment, and to what I thought a perſon, who had nine years ago given up a handſome competency in the Company's ſervice, to undertake a very fatiguing and hazardous enterprize for the advantage of the Company and of the Publick, might expect on being again engaged in this purſuit.

I had not ſo high an opinion of my own conſequence as to think, a matter of this importance to the Kingdom and to the Company, depended *upon me:* but if this is the caſe, I muſt take leave to ſay, that no *pecuniary* conſiderations ſhall prevent me from executing it.

I have the honour to be,

GENTLEMEN,

Your moſt obed^{t}. humble ſervant,

London,
Sept. 5, 1768.

A. DALRYMPLE.

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I waited on the Chairman and Deputy, to ſhew them this letter before I delivered it in: the Chairman told me "the expedition was not dropt, but the conſideration poſtponed; that when the Lioneſs's diſpatches were ſettled, ſomething would be determined: that his objection was the great expence, as by his eſtimate the Company would be 50,000l. out of pocket before they could reap a farthing."

I replied, that this eſtimate appeared to me very aſtoniſhing, and that I could not conceive how the equipment could poſſibly coſt half that ſum.

He anſwered, "There was no ſaying what it would coſt; that they muſt not ſtarve the cauſe, and that the expence was endleſs."

I replied

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I replied, that I thought it was very eaſy to come nearly to a certainty what the expedition would coſt; that the ſhip might eaſily be eſtimated*; that the amount of pay and proviſions for the number of men propoſed were articles eaſily rated; and that theſe comprehended all the material diſburſements: that fortifications, indeed, ran up to an enormous expence; but theſe were not propoſed 'till the Company could, by experience, determine how far there was a probability of effecting the purpoſes of the expedition: that if they had not this knowledge in three years, they never could: if they

* The Latham, juſt then arrived from China, was offered with all her ſtores for 2000 guineas. This ſhip was in very good condition, having performed her voyage without making any water, and might have been compleatly fitted for the ſervice required for 500 l. more.

then

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then ſaw no probability of ſucceſs; it was time to withdraw, as it would be abſurd to put the Company to any farther expence.

He obſerved, "That if I thought this letter would preſerve any *right*, it was proper to give it in; that it would be very unbecoming in him to oppoſe any letter intended to be laid before the Court of Directors: that he did not think what men ſaid over a bottle ſignified any thing." He added, "that there had been no Committee of Correſpondence, as the Gentlemen had been employed in buſineſs of more importance."

The Deputy alſo told me, "that the undertaking was not dropt, even as the reſolution now ſtands: that a kind of *middle* meaſure was adopted, neither giving it up, nor executing it as firſt propoſed.

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"That ſome Gentlemen had oppoſed the undertaking totally; and therefore, when difficulties aroſe, they had come to this middle reſolution, whereby the Court kept a power of reſuming the ſubject, whereas otherwiſe it would have been quaſhed at once. That as the reſolution now ſtood, orders would go to Madraſs to take the moſt effectual meaſures to carry the expedition into execution; and therefore the Gentlemen there would become *reſponſible.*"

I replied, that I thought the undertaking ſhould either be purſued effectually, or not at all; that if, on a full examination, the motives ſhould not appear ſufficient to induce the Company to make the experiment, it ought to be dropt at once: that orders to Madraſs were abſurd;

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abſurd; for it was not in the power of the Gentlemen at Madraſs to carry it into execution, as they even had no veſſels on that eſtabliſhment.

He replied, "they muſt ſend to Bombay then:" and took notice, that "when the diſpatches of the Lioneſs were thought of, the ſubject would be re-conſidered."

He further obſerved, that "the latter part of the letter was very handſome."

I had added, "that if my wiſhes "appear unreaſonable, I ſhall un- "dertake the ſervice on ſuch terms "as a General Court of Proprietors "may think adequate:" but left out this paragraph by the advice of ſome of my friends, ſince that reference might be made at any time, though even a hint of it to the Court of Directors

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Directors would inſtantly alarm their jealouſy.

In every country where there is a ſyſtem of civil government, reference from the deciſion or opinion of one tribunal to another is an eſtabliſhed cuſtom: infallibility is not ſuppoſed to exiſt in any court or body of men, and the appeal carried from the inferior to the ſuperior tribunal only ends at laſt becauſe there muſt be ſomewhere a deciſive court: indeed, in a free country, there is ſtill an appeal to the publick, which may be conſidered as a *petition of rights*. An appeal to the Houſe of Lords from the High-Court of Chancery is not thought by the Chancellor of England a perſonal imputation on the equity of his judgments or the wiſdom of his decrees: Such a reference can never diſpleaſe a wiſe

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man, becauſe it is only exerting a natural and conſtitutional right inherent in every individual.

But if even a *wiſh* of reference to the opinion of a General Court of Proprietors, is mentioned to an India Director, he ſtands aghaſt! and as ſoon as he gets utterance tells you that ſuch a meaſure is hoſtile to the Direction, and ſubverſive of all good government. The Company's charter however has made the Court of Proprietors the Supreme Court of *reference*, and indeed of regulation.

"What! propoſe Conditions to the opinion of a General Court? ſuch a thing was never heard of."——It is in vain to ſay Lord Clive had his jaghire confirmed by a General Court before he returned to India.——You will be told, "This is not a parallel caſe." Not parallel indeed; for there is perhaps

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haps but *one* example of a man in the Company's ſervice having for ſo many years truſted to their generoſity [s].

"What! wiſh an annuity? impoſſible." It is in vain to ſay an annuity was granted to a Jew, for diſcovering a blunder in a treaty.—You will be told this is not parallel:—"he was never in the Company's "ſervice, and that the Court of "Directors gave it *firſt*, and ac-"quainted the General Court *after* "it was done; beſides his caſe was "recommended by the miniſtry."—No queſtion *one* word from a miniſter deſerves more attention than many years ſervices repeatedly ac-

[s] Vide the Preſident and Council's inſtructions to Mr. Dalrymple, ut ſupra, p. 48. their Letter to the Court of Directors, p. 46, and the Letters from the Court of Directors, p. 47 and 51.

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knowledged, though unrewarded, by the Court of Directors.

Not only an implicit acquieſcence is required to the ſentiments of the Court of Directors, but even to their inactivity. You will be told, "Buſineſs of *more* importance engages "their attention," too much to admit the conſideration of ſo *trifling* an affair as extending the commerce of this Country and of the Company. One year this *important* buſineſs is a diſpute between a Ship's-huſband and the Owners, who has the right of nominating a Captain: another year it is a debate whether Eight New Ships ſhall be admitted, and a Weſt-India ſhip freighted out to India. Theſe matters may perhaps appear of more importance to a Director than to the Company.

There

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There is a pedantry inſeparable from the human mind; every man thinks the objects of his attention and purſuit of the utmoſt conſequence; it is univerſal in all ranks and profeſſions: the only difference ariſes from the importance of the object. Of this the impartial Publick only can be the judge; and the queſtion, "Whether the object of "attention be *great* or *triſling?* "determines the character of the "*perſon.*" Perhaps it may appear that my idea of the conſequence to be expected from an eſtabliſhment to the Eaſtward is *merely* becauſe it has been long an object of my *purſuit.* I mean to put it in the power of the Publick to decide: and having done this duty, I ſhall ſtand acquitted in my own mind, even ſhould the Publick think this Plan the Fan-

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tom of Imagination, ſince I am conſcious of having purſued what I *thought* the Publick Intereſt.

Good order requires a decent reſpect and ſubmiſſion to adminiſtration; but they muſt be blind to the examples in hiſtory, and deaf to the dictates of common-ſenſe, who think the Publick Welfare depends on an implicit confidence in the ability and virtue of any Rulers whatever: the greateſt and wiſeſt *minds* will often feel a languor and indolence, which require a ſtimulation of *danger* or *neceſſity* to drive them into *action*. It would be equally falſe and ſervile to aſſert, that the wiſeſt Adminiſtration is in *every* circumſtance better informed than *ſome* Individual.

It would be paying Mr. Gregory or Mr. Fitzhugh no compliment to ſay,

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ſay, that *even* a perſon who has made the General Commerce of India his ſtudy, is leſs converſant than the latter in the trade of China, or than the former in the affairs of Bengal: in like manner, without imputation of vanity, I may preſume many years reflexion and experience has beſtowed on me a more intimate knowledge of the Eaſtern parts of India than any other man poſſeſſes: and having conſidered every view of, and every difficulty attending, an Eſtabliſhment, it will not be eaſy to perſuade me, that the debate of an hour in a Committee can beſtow on twenty-four men, even as wiſe as the great Bacon, the ability of digeſting a plan for ſuch a purpoſe, and therefore I muſt be convinced that the hour *will* come, when this labour ſhall be thought uſeful.

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It is enough if men, entruſted with the adminiſtration, have an unwearied application, and general knowledge, are inclined to promote the Publick Welfare, and to encourage every perſon whom they may find thus diſpoſed; they muſt, however, be open to information, and not, like Dr. Laſt, quite ſatisfied that they know every thing.

Only Quacks and Jobbers will be afraid of an inquiſition into their conduct and opinions. Every perſon who knows himſelf fit to conduct any branch of Publick Affairs cannot be unwilling to have *his* examined. If an able and honeſt man, he will be glad to have his errors corrected, and will have confidence enough in his own ability and virtue to truſt that his general character will ſtand the *teſt*. If *it does not*, what

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what motive can the Publick have for entruſting him?

A new ſettlement is not to be made by common-place maxims, or an abſtract of another man's plan; every perſon entruſted with ſuch a charge muſt have a plan of his own. That of another will be ever too *little* or too *much* for him. However, much previous knowledge is requiſite to enable any man to form ſuch a plan.

Middle meaſures may be pronounced to be always wrong: if a matter does not, on a full examination, deſerve to be purſued, it ought certainly to be relinquiſhed. Without the *utmoſt* vigour, no new undertaking will ever be carried into execution; yet how can this vigour be expected when it is begun with lukewarmneſs? Beſides, it is like Egyp-

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tian taſk-maſters, demanding bricks without ſtraw: every thing requiſite to enſure ſucceſs is omitted, and yet ſucceſs is expected!

Previous to a new undertaking, a plan of the objects ſhould be formed; every objection ſhould then be made in writing: deſultory converſations of publick bodies are generally ridiculous; a man of good ſenſe may not underſtand aſtronomy, but he would appear very abſurd if he talked about it; even his queſtions * would ſeem ridiculous to an aſtronomer: indeed no *queſtions* can be ſo, but the *deciſions* of the igno-

* Amongſt other queſtions, when I attended the Committee, it was aſked, "What the Emperor of China would think of an eſtabliſhment at Balambangan?" And a grave Director aſked me afterwards, "If there *were* any *women* to be got there?" Another Director very properly replied, "What! "women on an uninhabited iſland?"

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rant ever muſt. The proper perſon to anſwer objections is the perſon who lays down the plan.

It is not at all to the purpoſe to alledge, in behalf of *middle* meaſures, that ſome of the Direction were altogether againſt the plan; and that adopting a kind of *mean* keeps it in the power of the Court of Directors to take it up hereafter. They who think the whole is improper, betray their truſt in *conſenting* to ſuch *middle* meaſures; every expence attending which, muſt, in their opinion, be money thrown away: and if theſe do not conſent, every impartial perſon muſt ſee, "to *come* to a *bad* re-"ſolution *now*, that a *good* one may "be taken *hereafter*," is the greateſt of all abſurdities. However, as this is repreſented to be the ſtate of the Direction, it certainly muſt appear reaſonable

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reaſonable to appeal to the ſentiments of a General Court, in behalf of thoſe men, who *wiſh* to come to a *good* reſolution; of thoſe who condemn every new eſtabliſhment as chimerical; or in behalf of that part of the Direction who may ſilently acquieſce to what they cannot prevent.

However ſolicitous I was for the Court of Directors to come to a determination, I did not wiſh even to perplex them: but no further intimation being made to me directly, though I found different pretences were made to others for delaying their reſolution, I thought it became abſolutely neceſſary for the publick intereſt, either to have the expedition ſpeedily undertaken, or to let the Publick know what might be done, eſpecially as the laſt pretence was, that " they waited for the arrival

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rival of the Madraſs ſhip," to which the expedition had not the leaſt relation. I could not but conſider this as one of the *official* delays which are always ready as an excuſe for putting off what is not meant to be performed.

On a former occaſion it was ſuſpected Buckingham betrayed the Company's rights to the Dutch. Perhaps ſome men may think there are modern miniſters who have not more virtue or leſs influence on the Company's affairs than Buckingham. But thank heaven we have *not* a Stuart on the throne.

On the 5th of October, I wrote the following letter.

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To the Honourable the Court of Directors, &c.

GENTLEMEN,

NOtwithſtanding the private intimations of my intentions have been conſidered as *threats* *, I rather chuſe again to expoſe myſelf to ſuch ill-grounded imputations than to run the leaſt hazard of indiſcreetly doing any thing in the ſmalleſt degree prejudicial to the intereſt of the Company. I am therefore to inform you that I intend to publiſh my plan for extending the commerce of this Kingdom and of the Company in the Eaſt-Indies: ſhould any objections againſt ſuch a publication occur to you, it will be a favour to communicate them.

* I had heard a report that the Chairman repreſented the converſation p. 37. in this light.

To

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To judge for himſelf, and to act according to his own judgment, are privileges which I think no man ought to give up: I do not mean therefore implicitly to be guided by *opinions*, whether they appear well or ill grounded, but maturely to conſider *every* objection with candour, and then to determine on what may ſeem to me moſt conducive to the welfare of the Public and of the Company.

I have the honour to be,

GENTLEMEN,

Your moſt obedient

humble ſervant,

Soho-Square,
Oct. 5, 1768.

A. DALRYMPLE.

To prevent dilatory procraſtinations, too common in all Publick Bodies, I declared

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declared in my letter, that I was not to be determined merely by *opinions*. However, when I attended, at the desire of the Committee, on the 7th of October, instead of *specifying* their *objections*, the Chairman told me, "The Committee thought all pub-"lication was improper." He would not condescend to let me know on what *grounds* they thought so. On observing that "I wished to know the "particular objections which occurred "to them, as I thought general ob-"jections insufficient to ground a de-"termination upon;" I was only told their simple *opinion*, that "The Com-"mittee disapproved of all publica-"tion," which, after my previous declaration above-mentioned, could not answer any good purpose. The Chairman farther said, that "I was "left to do what I thought proper."—

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Mr. Jones added in a ſurly tone, "What you do ſhall be at your *peril*." I have heard it ſaid Mr. Jones declared he did not mean any thing like a *threat*; as I never had any intercourſe or converſation with him, but then, I cannot be an adequate judge of his intentions. The apology made for La Fontaine, *il eſt plus bête que malin*, may, for ought I know, be applicable to Mr. Jones; but if what he ſaid did not mean an *inſolent threat*, what did it mean? If *I* had ſpoken in ſuch a manner to a ſhoe-black, it would, I think, have been treating him very *inſolently*.

I repeated Mr. Jones's laſt word with great *warmth*, when the Chairman called *to order*.

I obſerved, that I always had, and always ſhould pay a due reſpect to him, both as Chairman and in his own Perſon, as he never had behaved to me with incivility;

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incivility; but that I *muſt* think ſuch an expreſſion very *improper*. He replied, that he always meant to treat every body with reſpect, but that he could not be of opinion, that the expreſſion was *quite improper* to a perſon who had favours to expect from the Company. I rejoined that I muſt ſtill think it was *very improper*, and then withdrew, as I had been deſired to do. As I was removing, Mr. Jones ſaid, "He thought it was very proper, and "that he repeated it."

A very amiable Member of the Committee, whoſe *good wiſhes* I ſhall ever think an *honour*, becauſe I am confident they will never be beſtowed, but where he thinks there is ſome deſert, has ſince regretted that the warmth of my reply put a ſtop to any further converſation in the Committee, and hinted, that if this had not been the caſe, I would

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I would have found things in a good train: without preſuming to judge what further converſation *could* have paſſed after the Chairman had told me "I was left to do what I thought pro-"per," or to determine how far what *has* hapened, is ſufficient reaſon for impeding or preventing the execution of a matter, ſo important to the welfare of this Country, and of the Company; I appeal to him, or to any other impartial perſon preſent, if I ſpoke to the *Chairman* with any unbecoming heat; with him I was not angry, becauſe I did not think what he ſaid, was meant as an *inſult*. It is true, I did and do conſider myſelf to have been as much in a *publick* character as any Member of the Committee, ſince I attended on a matter relative *ſolely* to the Company. Indeed it muſt be obvious no individual Member of a Committee has a right to

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more than to aſk queſtions or urge objections, ſince all deciſions or opinions, as the ſentiments of the board, ſhould come from the Chairman; I was therefore, perhaps, more in a *publick* character than any one preſent, the Chairman excepted.

It has been intimated to me, the Committee congratulated themſelves on getting rid of a perſon, from warmth of temper, ſo *unfit* for ſuch a charge. Perhaps, blown up with ideas of ſelf-importance, they may expect a degree of ſervility inconſiſtent with every noble feeling; but they may be aſſured a *little* mind will never accompliſh the eſtabliſhment at Balambangan, nor a *great* one tamely bear *even* a *ſuſpicion* of inſult. And, before they form a judgment of tempers, they will do well to conſider *one* drop *only* makes the glaſs run over; ſo the mind, when long

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teazed with follies, and vexed with slights, easily loses for a moment, that calmness which some men possess only from stupidity.

On the 11th of October, I wrote the following letter.

To the Honourable the Court of Directors, &c.

GENTLEMEN,

HAVING on Friday attended the Committee of Correspondence at their desire, I understood from the Chairman, that the Committee were of opinion, "any Publication would "be improper." I observed, I wished to know the particular objections which occurred to them, since I considered general objections as insufficient to ground a determination upon: he said, "The "Committee disapproved of all Pub-

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"lication, and therefore I was left to "do what I thought proper." If I am under any miſtake on this head, I ſhall be glad to be ſet right.

Mr. Jones then very angrily ſaid, "What I did ſhould be at my *peril.*" I anſwered with that warmth and ſcorn which every manly ſpirit muſt feel on receiving an inſult: I did not mean any diſreſpect to the *Committee*, and perſuade myſelf I ſaid nothing which can be conſtrued as ſuch: no one has a greater reſpect for public bodies; but it is the reſpect of a *man*, not of a *ſlave*; and I neither have, nor *wiſh* to have, a temper *tamely* to be *bullied.*

I was deſired then to withdraw: I wiſh Mr. Jones would explain what he meant by *peril.* Can the ſentiments of any Director imply a threat of vengeance againſt a perſon, who, even in the matter in queſtion, ſhewed his attach-

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attachment to the *Company*, and attention to *their* intereſt, *merely* becauſe he has not an implicit confidence in the *infallible* wiſdom and virtue of any ſet of men?

I have broke no covenants, nor have I ever defrauded the Company, but I have expoſed myſelf to many fatigues and dangers in their behalf, and in every reſpect have ſerved them faithfully and zealouſly, tho' *hitherto* without reward.

Could any Director mean, that if I preſume to have an opinion of my *own*, I muſt expect *no* reward for my paſt labours, nor even be continued in the common line of the Company's ſervice?

If *peril* had only been mentioned by Mr. Jones, his *general* character might make me *now* paſs it over in *ſilent ſcorn*: but as the chairman de-

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ſended the word, and hinted ſomething about expectations from the Company, I think it neceſſary to inform the Court, I am equally incapable of threatening others, or being myſelf deterred by threats: I laid it down as a maxim early in life, "to purſue the "meaſures which I thought for the "public intereſt:" This principle has ſupported my ſpirits through many *perils*, and this principle I will maintain at *all perils*.

"Whether I ſhould publiſh my "plan or *not*," was not the queſtion referred to conſideration, but "why "it ſhould *not* be publiſhed:"—this I am ſtill ſolicitous to know, as it requires ſomething *more* than the *threat* of a director to *alienate me* from the Company.

I ſhall ever entertain the utmoſt reſpect for the Court of Directors, but

muſt

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muſt conſider not only them, but every *public officer*, whether by election or inheritance, as *in truſt* for the community. I intimated my intentions of publication, that in caſe any objections had occurred to the Court, which threaten danger to the Company, I might, by the communication of theſe objections, be prevented doing any thing prejudicial to their intereſt. If any objections do occur, I ſhall ſtill be glad to know them, and beg they may be communicated in writing.

I am convinced, the proſecution of the plan for extending the commerce to the eaſtward, would be much for the intereſt of the Company, and can foreſee the fatal conſequences of delay. The motive on which I act is, that when this plan is *publiſhed*, no *party*

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in a Court of Directors can oppoſe its *immediate* execution. And although *I may* be made *a ſacrifice* to their reſentment, the Public *muſt* be *ſerved*. I ſhall therefore ſcarcely think any thing a ſufficient objection to the publication but what gives a full conviction that effectual meaſures will ſpeedily be taken to carry the plan into execution.

I have one favour to beg; it is, that every circumſtance of miſconduct or miſbehaviour which can be alledged againſt me ſince I entered into the Company's ſervice in 1752 may be given me in writing, that I may have an opportunity of vindicating myſelf from every inſinuation of Malevolence. This charge will either make me know myſelf, or let the world know me; and if I *muſt* be an *outcaſt*, it ſeems but

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a reaſonable paſſport after ſo many years ſervice.—

I have the honour to be,

GENTLEMEN,

Your moſt obedient

humble ſervant,

Soho-Square,
Oct. 11, 1768.

A. DALRYMPLE.

I have had no reply to this letter; but on the 13th received the following.

"SIR,

"The Court of Directors of the "Eaſt-India Company have ordered "me to call upon you to deliver in "to them all grants made to the "Company, and papers relating to "their affairs that are in your cuſto-"dy, or that have come into your "hands in conſequence of your em-

"ploy

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" ploy in the Company's ſervice dur-
" ing the time of your being engaged
" therein. I am,

" SIR,

" Your moſt obedient

" humble ſervant,

" East-India houſe,
" Oct. 12, 1768. " P. MICHELL, Secr^y.

" Alexander Dalrymple, *Eſq.*"

In reply, " I begged to have a *liſt*
" ſpecifying what papers the Court
" deſired from me."

On the 20th I received the follow-
ing letter.

SIR,

I have laid your letter dated the 13th
inſtant before the Court of Directors
of

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of the East India Company, and am commanded, in return, to acquaint you, that they expect you will deliver to them, all books, maps and papers, and copies of books, maps and papers, that have come into your poſſeſſion, in virtue of your having been in the ſervice of the Company, and of the free acceſs you have had to the Company's maps, books and papers in this houſe; and I am alſo directed to deſire you will give me a ſpeedy anſwer, for the information of the Court.

I am,

SIR,

Your moſt obedient

humble ſervant,

East India houſe,
Oct. 20. 1768.

P. MICHELL, Secry.

Next

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Next day, I received another letter, incloſing a liſt of ſome papers which the Court of Directors deſired me to deliver.

On the 24th, in a letter to the Secretary, I replied, " that as what I do is at *my peril*, it behoves me to do nothing however *trivial* without deliberation, I ſhould otherwiſe have anſwered the firſt immediately: That, from an expreſſion in it, *the free acceſs I have had to the Company's maps, books, and papers, in the India-houſe*; it appears to me the Court of Directors lie under a great miſtake."

" It is true, in March 1766 I did apply for *permiſſion, to examine the antient records of the Company, relative to the eaſtern parts of India*; *as I was perſuaded the experience I have had in that quarter of the world would enable me to trace out many valuable circum-*

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circumſtances, which would be of very great conſequence to the Company, ſhould they hereafter think proper to purſue their intereſts there." But although I did apply for permiſſion, I never did obtain it.

" That, at the ſame time, I aſked leave to copy the charts in the Company's poſſeſſion, which was allowed: the reaſon I gave for this application, was, that I intended ſome time or other to reduce thoſe I had collected to a general ſcale. That the *publick* intention, for which I aſked and obtained theſe charts, is not yet fulfilled; however, if the Court inſiſt on it, they ſhall have them back.

" The only *free acceſs* I have had to the records in the India houſe, has been to the ſea journals; this no mate of an India Man is refuſed, nor to have extracts on paying for them: I have

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have had many extracts made at a considerable expence; these extracts in my hands may be of publick utility. Without entering into an enquiry what right I may have to keep them, I am willing to return them, if the Court desire it, on being paid what they have cost me—as a *few* guineas may henceforth be to me a matter of consideration.

"That it may be said, every paper in my possession has come into my hands, *in virtue of my being in the Company's service*; for if I had not gone to India, India probably would never have been to me a subject of enquiry. This shews how very necessary it was for the Court to explain themselves. I shall consider the *list* transmitted me as a commentary on their general expectation.

I also acquainted him that I had the cession, and some treaties, which I was

ready

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ready to deliver to *the Court of Directors*, whenever they think proper.

I observed, that, "It seems very unreasonable to desire my instructions, as these are the vouchers for my conduct; that, many of the other papers in the list, I never saw."

I concluded, that, "having now replied to his letters, I begged he would be kind enough in my behalf, to solicit the Court, to let me know their resolution, on the memorial I gave in some time since."

On the 25th, I received another letter from the Secretary, by order of the Court of Directors, desiring me "to deliver to a Court to be held on the 26th, the treaties and cession, mentioned in my letter of the 24th;" but taking no further notice of their *general demands*.

On

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On the 26th of October, I delivered into the Court of Directors the papers desired of me, and when I had done this, I begged the favour to know the Court's resolution on my memorial. The Chairman said, "the Court "had not come to any resolution; that "the Committee had not gone through "the papers about that business." I replied, that I did not presume to judge for the Court, but did conceive the resolution on the memorial, had no relation to any other paper, and that I much wished to know their resolution.—He said, "no resolution was ta-"ken; that *he did not give any reasons*, "he found it was *dangerous giving* "*reasons*; that the consideration was "referred to the proper Committee." I then paid my compliments and retired.

I have now given a very full and very fair recital of what has passed: on

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to ſay I never have done wrong, would be ſuppoſing myſelf more than man; but I am not conſcious of having, either from pride or obſtinacy, perſiſted in an error after I was convinced of it. — I conſider the charge of ſuch an eſtabliſhment to be a moſt important *truſt*. I therefore wiſh the world to know me juſt as I am; and that they may do ſo, I have neither diſſembled, nor concealed any thing. If I am thought unfit for ſuch a truſt, either from warmth of temper, independency of ſpirit, want of ability, or any other reaſon; far be it from me to wiſh the public ſervice ſacrificed on my account; but I think I may claim to have a fair hearing in my own defence. If the Company can find a properer perſon for this charge than he who *firſt* propoſed and who has been engaged above nine years in the

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proſecution of this object, who pointed out, what, I will be bold to aſſert, is the moſt convenient place for a commercial capital, and who obtained a ceſſion of it, I promiſe to afford him all the information in my power: but I muſt appeal to the *juſtice* of the Company, whether my paſt ſervices do not merit their attention, as *notwithſtanding my warmth of temper*, it was me who opened the intercourſe, and obtained many important grants for the Company in a quarter of the world whereto perhaps no other had extended his ideas.

The nature of the ſubject muſt be my excuſe for ſpeaking ſo much of myſelf; though the example of the greateſt men ſtands a vindication of egotiſm in one who thinks himſelf ſlighted.

I have

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I have publiſhed this narrative previous to the publication of the plan; that the Company or the Public may have an opportunity of making their objections, if any occur, againſt that publication: as I am not actuated by a ſpirit of reſentment but public duty, I ſhall very readily ſtop the future publication, if good reaſon is given me why it ſhould be ſtopped: but I do not think a ſupercilious opinion of any man, or body of men, that *good reaſon:* I require arguments, not aſſertions; and they who will not condeſcend to a fair diſcuſſion of the former, may ſave themſelves the trouble of the laſt, and keep their opinions to themſelves.

My want of confidence in the preſent Directors, does not *merely* proceed from their having *trifled* with me ſo many months, but from a general review of their conduct: I have at pre-

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ſent entirely confined myſelf to what has paſſed on this particular ſubject; but if the narrative here laid before the Public ſhould be thought to contain no ſufficient reaſon for my want of confidence, I may, perhaps, be induced to give my reaſons at large, by a general review of meaſures purſued by the preſent Court of Directors: I am far from inſinuating a charge againſt every perſon; public bodies are generally governed by a few leaders; and theſe again often by a noiſy bully or fawning ſycophant behind the curtain. I know *ſome* very ſenſible and worthy men in the Direction, and have heard there are others whom I do not know. I have indeed no pleaſure in perſonal imputations, though I am far from meaning to offer incenſe at every unworthy ſhrine.

If

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If the present Court of Directors are pleased to reject me, not from any *unfitness*, but from an opinion that they are not empowered to satisfy my wishes, the Proprietors are certainly the proper judges to decide what my past and future services deserve: if I am to be continued in the common line, I must beg leave to remind them, that above nine years ago I relinquished a very honourable employment in the Company's service, reckoned worth 500 l. *per annum*, and to inform them, that, although I have never been charged with extravagance, I am now *poorer*, than when I first entered into the Company's service, in 1752. I think in *justice*, I have, therefore, a claim to the generous consideration of the Company, whether my future services *are*, or are *not* accepted.

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" That I am to be totally re-
" jected by the Company," is an idea too *gloomy* to be indulged! Although private pique and paſſions might incline ſome of the Directors to a ſpirit of perſecution; I cannot believe a majority, even of them, would coolly join in ſuch a meaſure: however, I throw myſelf on the *Public*, and am prepared to receive *their* deciſion, with heart-felt gratitude, or manly reſignation, and am perſuaded, whatever I may make the object of my purſuit, will not be attended with more dangers and fatigues, than what I have undergone in their ſervice. To *be* what a hundred others *are*, is to *me* no object of ambition, nor a motive to forego one ſatisfaction of ſociety; and I would rather be a Rawleigh on the ſcaffold, or a Columbus in chains, than the

richeſt

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richeſt man in this Kingdom, dignified with *unmerited* honours.

London, Oct. 20,
1768.

POSTSCRIPT.

To act with the utmoſt deliberation at the ſame time that I purſued ſtedfaſtly the object I had in view, I printed a few copies of this tract, which I communicated to ſome particular friends, intending to profit by their ſentiments and admonition, before I made a publick appeal: I alſo ſhewed it to the Secretary at the India-Houſe, by whom it was communicated to ſome of the Directors.

I have heard it is inſinuated as a reproach, "that I have expoſed the ſecrets of *confidential* converſations." I expreſsly deny the *charge*; I have repeated

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peated no converſations which paſſed in the familiarities of ſociety: every thing I have related paſſed in *conferences*, expreſsly on the ſubject, with Directors, with whom I was not familiar, and at times when nothing elſe was talked of. Perhaps the letter, p. 28. may be thought an exception, but it is entirely relative to the ſentiments of the Committee, and contains nothing perſonal to the Director, from which it was received: I communicated to him my intention of publiſhing it, as neceſſary to explain what had paſſed, at the ſame time deſiring to know if there was any circumſtance he wiſhed to have omitted: the neceſſity of publiſhing it muſt be obvious, as this was the only channel by which the ſentiments of the Committee were communicated to me.

The note in p. 72, Mr. Gregory's opinion, p. 13, and the Secretary's information,

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formation, p. 31, are almoſt the whole of what paſſed *officially*, if converſations with particular Directors, on publick buſineſs, are not to be conſidered as ſuch. If this is admitted, I never *knew* the Company *intended* making an eſtabliſhment; and all that has paſſed muſt be a *dream*, for I never had any publick intimation of ſuch an intention, and therefore could never have differed about terms of any kind.

Some of the diſpaſſionate Directors having expreſſed a wiſh, that a mutual friend might interfere and accommodate all differences, I delayed, for above a month, the publication of my narrative: But this mutual friend, on the 1ſt inſtant, informed me, ſome of the leading Directors had declared to him, that, "they can have no thoughts "of the expedition at *preſent*, and "that although they meant I ſhould "return

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" return to India, in the Company's " ſervice, they would conſider my " publiſhing any thing as a defiance, " and conſult the Attorney-General " what grounds there was for a pro- " ſecution againſt me." As there was no hope left of an accommodation, without ſacrificing to my *own private intereſt*, what appears to me to be the intereſt of the Publick, there no longer ſubſiſted a motive for delaying the publication of this narrative, which indeed is little more than a full expoſition of the reaſons for publiſhing my plan.

However, before I publiſhed the narrative, I candidly communicated it to the Chairman and Deputy, obſerving, that as my intentions were *to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth*, I begged they would point out any miſtakes they might perceive, or any alteration they could wiſh conſiſtent

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conſiſtent with thoſe intentions, and further requeſted that they would be kind enough to communicate it, for the ſame purpoſes, to ſuch other perſons, as they might think any way intereſted.

The Chairman replied, "that he "could have no objection to the pub- "lication, of whatever Mr. Dalrymple "may think neceſſary to ſend into the "world for his own juſtification; but "ſo far as concerns the Eaſt-India "Company, he cannot help concur- "ring with the ſentiments of the Com- "mittee of Correſpondence, that all "publications, tending to expoſe the "*ſecrets* of the Company, are extreme- "ly injurious to its intereſt, and are "likely to reflect very little *honour* or "*benefit* on the Author."

The Deputy-chairman ſent me a reply, in which he ſaid, "He can "have no objections of a *private* na-

"ture

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" ture againſt publiſhing this Book,
" or any other relating to Balam-
" bangan; but that he thinks on *pub-*
" *lick* grounds theſe Publications to
" be highly unwarrantable; and that
" they will be *prejudicial* to the
" Company, and *injurious* to the Au-
" thor."

As neither the Chairman nor Deputy ſpecify the particular reaſons why they think any Publication will be prejudicial to the Company, they cannot ſurely be ſo unreaſonable as to expect I can pay implicit deference to *their opinion* againſt my *own*. Indeed the former begs the queſtion, by ſuppoſing *all Publications tend to expoſe the ſecrets of the Company*. This poſition I can never aſſent to in *the general*, and have repeatedly called upon the Court of Directors to explain what *particulars* of my Publi-

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cation they think can be prejudicial to the Company.

As to the *injury* to which theſe Publications may expoſe the Author, I can only ſay that, although no perſon has a greater attachment to his Country and to the Company, than myſelf; it is the attachment of a *man* who means to *do right*, but to judge for himſelf; not of a *ſlave*, blindly to obey the will of others; and that where I think my *rights*, as a *man*, or my *duty* as a *member of the community*, are concerned; neither the hopes of *favour*, nor the fear of *proſecution*, ſhall influence me:

For thee, fair virtue, welcome all that's paſt;
For thee, fair virtue, welcome even the laſt.

AD-

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